



Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities

Celebrating 32 Years of Leadership & Advocacy

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MEMBERS

Kecia B. Weller
President

Janet A. Neal
1st Vice President

Harley D. Rubenstein
2nd Vice President

Bernard Siegel
Treasurer

Mary Chambers
Wan Chun Chang
Michael G. Gureckas
Donna Pomerantz
Alexia Teran
John B. Troost
Wendy L. Welt
Sheila D. Wright

MINUTES OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

The regular meeting of the Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities was held on Wednesday, November 21, 2007, at Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, Room 140 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Weller at 1:15 p.m. Roll call was taken by Ms. Rosemary Osuna and the following Commissioners were present at the meeting: Kecia B. Weller, Janet A. Neal, Mary Chambers, Donna Pomerantz, Bernard Siegel, and John B. Troost. Commissioners Michael G. Gureckas, Harley D. Rubenstein, Alexia Teran, Wan Chun Chang, Wendy L. Welt, and Sheila D. Wright were not present.

DISCUSSION ON HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

President Weller reported that, according to County policy, the Commission's Trust Fund could not be used to pay for the Holiday Luncheon. Ms. Rosemary Osuna reported that the Department Head is looking for a solution for this year's holiday luncheon, only. She will inform the Commission of the resolution.

(2nd Vice President Harley Rubenstein joined the meeting.)

After discussion, on motion of 1st Vice President Neal, seconded by Commissioner Troost, and unanimously carried, the Commission approved a motion that the Commissioners explore the possibility of securing refreshments for social meetings.

APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 15, 2007 MINUTES

On motion of 1st Vice President Neal, seconded by Commissioner Siegel, and unanimously carried, the minutes for the meeting of August 15, 2007, were approved as submitted.

Discussion ensued on the issue of excessive absences by Commissioners, to Commission meetings. After discussion, on motion of Commissioner Siegel, seconded by 1st Vice President Neal, and unanimously carried, the Commission approved to report Commissioner's excessive absenteeism at Commission meetings, to appointing Supervisor and request replacement of Commissioner.

(Commissioner Wan Chun Chang joined the meeting.)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Hillary Sklar, Staff Attorney with Protection and Advocacy, reported that the Secretary of State Debra Bohen will conduct public hearings in Sacramento on Monday, November 26, 2007. The public hearings will enable Ms. Bohen to receive public input on how she should proceed with the decertification of the Electronic System and Software InkaVote Plus (ES&S InkaVote Plus), and whether it should be recertified prior to the February Presidential Primary. Ms. Sklar expressed her position and that of other disability rights advocates and encouraged the community at large to support its recertification because of the accessibility it provides to people with disabilities.

Ms. Linda Block reported on her interpretation of the Universal Health Care Reform and the Real ID Act of 2005.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Weller reiterated the importance of the attendance of Commissioners at Commission Meetings.

STAFF REPORT

Ms. Rosemary Osuna, Commission Staff, reported the following:

- All Los Angeles County Commissioners are required to attend Sexual Harassment Prevention and Cultural Diversity Training as a result of a Board directive in June 2007. The Commission is scheduled for this training on February 20, 2008, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., in Room 140 in lieu of the Regular Commission Meeting.
- The Commission received a *Thank You* letter from the Los Angeles County Commission for Women for Commissioner Krzyzanowski's participation as an exhibitor at its 5K Run/Walk event held on September 15, 2007, at the Pasadena Rose Bowl.

- Business Cards were ordered for the newly elected Commission Officers with the new officer titles.
- The Commission's Board Letter and ordinance regarding amendments to change the titles of the officers and to add duties related to fundraising activities by the Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities will be on the December 4, 2007, Board of Supervisors' Agenda.

PRESENTATION BY MARTIN KEMPE ON PUPPET EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

President Weller introduced and welcomed Mr. Martin Kempe.

- Mr. Kempe, Program Director of the Puppet Theater, provided the Commission and the community at large with a presentation of human-sized puppets that have facial expression mobility with the use of animatronics. The objectives of the puppet show are to teach children with disabilities cultural diversity and help children with learning disabilities to learn to focus.
- Mr. Kempe's vision is for a Puppet Theater Studio, which he will develop, that will provide educational programs involving children and young adults with disabilities. He invited individuals who are interested in partnering with him to contact him at (310) 275-8072.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive Committee

Disability Mentoring Day

1st Vice President Neal noted that the Board of Supervisors extended a proclamation scroll to the Commission declaring October 17, 2007, as Disability Mentoring Day throughout Los Angeles County. She added that she would like the Commission to continue to support Disability Mentoring Day.

B. Public Relations Committee

2007 Access Awards Luncheon

Approve purchase of one banner with Commission's name, logo and County seal to display at events and promotional activities.

1st Vice President Neal thanked everyone for supporting the 16th Annual Access Awards Luncheon hosted by the Commission on October 15, 2007, and added the following:

- The event had an excellent turnout – approximately 250 attendees.
- Commission Staff received very positive comments about the Luncheon event through the Commission's e-mail address.
- Ms. Jeanne Young, a photographer secured by the Commission and Mr. William Kidsten, a volunteer photographer, took excellent photographs of the event. Commission Staff will place photos on the Commission's Web Page.

After discussion, on motion of 1st Vice President Neal, seconded by Commissioner Pomerantz, unanimously carried, the Commission approved the purchase of one banner with the Commission's name and logo, and the Los Angeles County logo to display at events and promotional activities.

Commissioner Siegel reported that the Commission's net profit from the proceeds of the luncheon was \$16,000.

Radio Program-Disability Forum, KTYM 1460 AM aired on the third Wednesday of the month from 9:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

1st Vice President Neal reported the following:

- She did not conduct a radio show this morning. She reported that Mr. Gordon Anthony with the Office of Affirmative Action Compliance will be her guest speaker at the next Disability Network radio show.
- In February 2008, she will begin, with the assistance of Ms. Noreen Vincent, Deputy City Attorney, to document the history of the disability movement in the County and in the City of Los Angeles. She invited the Commissioners with more seniority on the Commission to participate in this project. Ms. Nadia Powers, a former Commissioner for the Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities and prominent advocate for the disability community is terminally ill. 1st Vice President Neal expressed that she would dedicate the historical project to Ms. Nadia Powers.
- She was a guest speaker on the *City View* program with channel 35.

After discussion, on motion of Commissioner Siegel, seconded by 1st Vice President Neal, and unanimously carried, the Commission approved to send a plaque on behalf of the Commission to honor Ms. Nadia Powers for her enduring commitment and dedication on the disability movement.

C. Community Service

Discussion on letter to Supervisor Antonovich on Communication Access in Real Time (CART) in the Glendora School District

After discussion, on motion of 1st Vice President Neal, and unanimously carried the Commission approved to send a letter, authored by Commissioner Pomeratz, to Supervisor Antonovich regarding CART in the Glendora School District.

Discussion on letters on dissemination of Disability-related information to the Commission and Community by Communities Actively Living Independent & Free (CALIF) and Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles

After discussion, on motion of Commissioner Siegel, seconded by 1st Vice President Neal, and unanimously, carried the Commission approved to send letters to CALIF and the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles on the lack of dissemination of disability-related information to the Commission and the community.

Discussion on assisting individuals in crisis who call the Commission seeking assistance

1st Vice President Neal reported that the Commission Staff had a phone call incident in which the caller threatened to commit suicide. 1st Vice President Neal complimented the staff for handling the situation despite of the limited expertise in dealing with these types of calls. The Commission concurred that Commission staff needs to be provided with contact phone numbers in an event of a similar occurrence in the future.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

ASI Report - Teddie Joy Remhild

Ms. Teddie Joy Remhild attended the Access Services Board of Directors Meeting held on Thursday, November 8, 2007 at the Luminarias Restaurant in Monterey Park. She discussed Agenda Item 4 of the Board of Directors' Agenda which dealt with approval to adopt the extension of a one-year contract option for ASI-1557 Eligibility Determination Services beginning July 1, 2008 with C.A.R.E Evaluations, LLC.

Ms. Remhild noted that the Board of Directors voted to extend the contract for three months instead of one year. On November 26, 2007, the Board will hold a special meeting to reconsider the vote on the action taken. The Access Services Board of Directors Special meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday, November 26, 2007, (Closed Session: 12:30 - 1:00 p.m.; General Session: 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.), Los Angeles County MTA, One Gateway Plaza, 3rd Floor 729 Vignes Street, Los Angeles.

REPORT OF KURT HAGAN, DEPUTY COMPLIANCE OFFICER

None.

ITEMS NOT POSTED FOR CONSIDERATION ON A FUTURE AGENDA

The Commission agreed to place the following items on a future agenda:

- Discussion on the possibility of captioning the Disability Network currently hosted by 1st Vice Chair Neal on KTYM 1460 AM Radio Program.
- Discussion of ADA violations and how Building and Safety, Department of Public Works deals with the violations.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2nd Vice President Harley Rubenstein recommended the book titled, "No Pity: People with Disabilities Forging a New Civil Rights Movement" authored by Joseph P. Shapiro, to the Commission and meeting attendees.

Commissioner Pomerantz announced that the next Access Services Service Animals Subcommittee meeting will be on November 29, 2007, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. at the ASI building located at 707 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90017.

1st Vice Chair Neal announced that November 30th is World AIDS Day and that the City of Los Angeles will be conducting special projects and events. Interested individuals may contact Steven Simon at (213) 485-6334.

NOMINATIONS FOR THE OFFICE OF TREASURER

On motion of 1st Vice President Neal, seconded by 2nd Vice President Rubenstein, and unanimously carried, the Commission unanimously voted to elect Commissioner Siegel as Treasurer for the remainder of the 2007-08 term to fill the vacancy left by Richard Krzyzanowski's resignation.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, President Weller wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Present

Kecia B. Weller, President
Janet A. Neal, 1st Vice President
Harley D. Rubenstein, 2nd Vice President
Mary Chambers
Wan Chun Chang
Donna Pomerantz
Bernard Siegel
John B. Troost

Excused Absence

Michael Gureckas
Alexia Teran
Sheila Wright

Unexcused Absence

Wendy L. Welt

Board of Supervisors

Rosemary Osuna, Staff
Martha Arana, Staff
Audra Galang, Staff

Guests

Hillary Sklar, Attorney, Protection and Advocacy Inc. (PAI)
Martin Kempe, Interactive Puppet Theater
Teddie-Joy Remhild, ASI
John Whitbread, LA County Dept. of Public Health
Ray Louis McKeever, Southern California Assn. of the Blind
Laura Ripplinger, LifeSigns, Inc.
Jonathan Gleicher, LifeSigns, Inc.
Joanne Jaimes, Total Recall Captioning
Donald Brando, Legion Post 8 #301
Linda Block